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sion, always the best English versions of their respective originals. The author has aimed to clothe his part of the work "in a style sufficiently removed from antiquity to give to the subject all the freshness of which it is susceptible," and he has succeeded so far as this, — that there is no aroma of classical culture about his diction. The absence of this is the chief defect of the book. Mr. Mills is an industrious compiler, but no enthusiast. His work bears the manifest marks of having been rather a book-making enterprise than a labor of love, but it is an enterprise honestly and faithfully carried through. We can, perhaps, best characterize it, when we say that it performs in full for the poetry, and in part for all the literature of Greece, the same office which Chambers has rendered as regards English literature in his Cyclopædia.

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10. — *The Bride of the Iconoclast. A Poem. Suggestions toward the Mechanical Art of Verse.* Boston: James Munroe & Co. 1854. 12mo. pp. 131.

THE writer of this poem says that he is a minor. He is not without ability, and certainly manifests no small skill in "the mechanical art of verse"; for his rhythm is in general musical and faultless, though with here and there a striking exception. But there is in some parts of the poem an offensive voluptuousness of sentiment, the coarser because veiled under refined forms of speech, and doubly revolting on account of the youth of the author. He is evidently in this regard, as in others, an imitator of Alexander Smith, and we sincerely wish for him, should he again appear before the public, a purer taste and a more worthy model. His imagery is intense, exaggerated, seemingly selected and thrown together at haphazard; and while it is often vague and irrelevant, it is felicitous and attractive perhaps as frequently as the doctrine of chances would authorize us to expect.

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11. — *History of Oliver Cromwell and the English Commonwealth, from the Death of Charles the First to the Death of Cromwell.* By M. GUIZOT. Translated by ANDREW R. SCOBIE. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. 1854. 2 vols. 12mo. pp. 426, 511.

THIS is the second of M. Guizot's works on the history of the English Revolution. His dispassionate mind, the union of liberal sentiments and conservative habitudes in his political character, and his sin-

cere yet discriminating sympathy with the liberal elements of the British Constitution, fit him eminently well to be the historiographer of Cromwell and his times. His narrative is a perfectly colorless medium. He is not an admirer of Cromwell; but at the same time fully appreciates all in his genius, tact, and policy that is worthy to be admired. He represents the Protector as less a hypocrite than a self-deceiver, — as undoubtedly patriotic in his plans and purposes, but as disposed to identify his country's interests with his own elevation. Cromwell's diplomatic relations and alliances occupy a large portion of the story, which is enriched by copious references to, and extracts from, documents in the archives of the French government; and, almost throughout the work, we are permitted at the same time to trace the external development of events, and to see in what aspects they presented themselves to the several French agents, who, either as accredited negotiators or as official spies, maintained a constant watch over the varying phases of English affairs.

12. — *First Lessons in Language ; or Elements of English Grammar.*

By DAVID B. TOWER, A.M., and BENJAMIN F. TWEED, A.M.
New York : Daniel Burgess & Co. 1854. 12mo. pp. 125.

OUR schools suffer no imposition so egregious as in the cumbrous grammatical text-books in common use, which serve no earthly purpose except to overtask the verbal memory, and to obfuscate the mental perception of the pupil. The Grammar now before us is an honorable exception. Its definitions are as simple as language can make them, and are in every instance illustrated by examples carefully analyzed. Its rules of syntax are few, concise, and comprehensive. It contains no irrelevant matter, and could be studied with interest and profit by an intelligent child of seven or eight years of age. There are but one or two minor points at which we are disposed to take exception. One of these is the identification of articles with adjectives. An article is not an adjective. "Adjectives describe nouns"; but the article designates not a quality of the object to which it is prefixed, but a particular category under which that object is present to the mind of the speaker or writer. Perhaps, however, the definite should be regarded as the only article, and the indefinite as another form of the numeral adjective *one*. But the definite article ought to be presented as a distinct part of speech, if for no other reason, because in most languages it differs essentially from the adjective in its inflections and habitudes. — One of the rules of syntax in the book before us says: "Adverbs describe or limit